

Committee on Ways and Means

Five Years After 9/11, Economy Stronger Than Ever

Five years ago, terrorists attacked the United States with the intention of crippling the American economy. Many feared the attacks would permanently undermine the strength of the American economy. The growth of the American economy in the last five years, with the help of monetary and fiscal stimulus, has proven the fundamental resilience of the American people and our free market economy. Today, more Americans are working than ever before, hourly wages are at an all-time high, U.S. businesses are stronger and more competitive, and commerce and trade are booming.

- The economy has grown 16 percent since the attacks of 9/11 after accounting for inflation, adding \$1.5 trillion in output in five years. This growth is more than the output of all of Canada in 2005.
- After cooling down in 2001 from the technology bubble of the 1990's, the stock market has grown 35 percent since the markets re-opened in September 2001.
- Corporate profits have grown 127 percent – a sign of how technology and the productivity of workers have made the American economy more competitive.
- International trade has grown 63 percent since 2001, and today 37 percent more containers move through U.S. ports than did in 2001.
- 3.9 million jobs have been created since September 2001, and the unemployment rate is down to 4.7 percent from a post-9/11 high of 6.3 percent in June 2003.
- Average hourly wages are at an all-time high of \$16.79.
- Public and private security spending is up by 50 percent from 2001 to \$90 billion. Instead of being the burden on businesses many were expecting, this amounts to only two-tenths of one percent of the economy's output.

Output booms five years after 9/11

